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**BNSF**



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**VIA UPS OVERNIGHT MAIL**

October 20, 2003

Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board  
1925 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

**Re: Surface Transportation Board Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 395X); The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company ("BNSF") Abandonment between Columbus, Kansas and Carthage, Missouri**

Dear Secretary Williams:

On May 3, 2002, BNSF filed a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon or discontinue service of 28.25 miles of railroad line between railroad milepost 343.55 in Columbus, Cherokee County, Kansas and railroad milepost 315.30 in Carthage, Jasper County, Missouri. The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Codes 66725, 66728, 64834, 64835, and 64836. An Interim Trails Use Railbanking Agreement, dated June 16, 2003, was entered into between BNSF and the Joplin Trail Coalition (for the properties in the State of Missouri), in lieu of abandonment. The remainder of the right of way has been salvaged and BNSF's discontinuance of the subject line will be consummated on October 31, 2003.

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter by date stamping the enclosed copy of this letter and returning it to me in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope.

Ten (10) additional copies of this letter are enclosed for the Board's use and distribution.

Sincerely,

Sarah Whitley Bailiff

SWB/js

cc: Kansas Corporation Commission  
Kansas Department of Transportation  
Missouri Public Service Commission  
Missouri Department of Transportation  
Richard Batie  
Charles Montange (Joplin Trail Coalition)  
Rail Services Update